



DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY

REPORT ON THE MONITORING INSPECTION OF OUTSTANDING SCHOOLS

School: St Peter's Catholic Primary School

Address: Hough Hill Road
Stalybridge
SK15 2HB

URN: 106241

Headteacher: Mrs E Summersgill

Chair of Governors: Mr P Murphy

Inspector: Mrs E Robb

Date of Previous Inspection:
6 May 2008
Overall Grade 1 (Outstanding)

Date of Current Inspection :
1 July 2014
Overall Grade 1 (Outstanding)

In an environment where Gospel values permeate throughout the school community, St Peter's Catholic Primary School continues to provide an outstanding Catholic education for all children in its care.

The belief in, and response to, the Mission Statement are significant factors in the success of this outstanding school. There is total commitment to living out the Mission Statement in all areas of school life and in the school community.

The children are fully aware of the significance and relevance of the Mission Statement, which is displayed throughout the school. A member of the School Council stated "The Mission Statement reminds us all to aim for excellence in whatever we do."

The inspirational and spiritual leadership of the Headteacher ensures all have a clear vision of the Catholic life of the school. She is well supported by an excellent senior management team, an effective and dedicated Religious Education Co-ordinator, Parish Priest, governors and staff. Their commitment to the pursuit of excellence is communicated to the whole school community through their words and actions.

The governors are proud of their school, and rightly so. They visit school often and provide effective challenge, whilst supporting the school leadership wholeheartedly. Governors are focussed on, and committed to, the mission of the school. The Parish Priest, who is also a governor, is extremely proud of the high standards achieved in Religious Education. Partnerships, at all levels, are outstanding.

Under the leadership of the Religious Education Co-ordinator, the school is successfully implementing 'The Way, the Truth and the Life', in accordance with Diocesan guidelines. The school is using and developing high quality resources, alongside a wide range of teaching approaches, to provide lively and interesting Religious Education lessons, which result in purposeful learning.

The school has a rigorous and systematic programme of monitoring and self-evaluation, which clearly and accurately identifies areas of strength, as well as, areas for development. There is no complacency as the school strives for excellence.

During the Learning Walk the Inspector witnessed examples of outstanding practice. It was evident that the children enjoy their Religious Education lessons. The exciting interactive displays, the standard of work in the children's books, the respectful relationships children have with each other and with staff, indicate the commitment to the promotion of the highest standards expected of all. Both achievement and effort are celebrated.

The behaviour of the children is outstanding and they feel very much involved in developing and maintaining the Catholic nature of the school. They are able to comment on the provision made for them through surveys, pupil discussions, worry boxes and the School Council.

The children are obviously listened to as they express their beliefs and views confidently and enthusiastically. There are numerous opportunities, available to the children, which enable them to develop spiritually and morally. For example, the 'Young Ambassadors of Faith' meet regularly to deepen their faith through prayer and reflection. Children regularly take part in school, parish and community based activities and are aware that these contribute to the common good through service to others.

The children have an excellent understanding of the world outside their school and make an outstanding contribution in their practical fundraising activities, helped by a very active Minnie Vinnies group. They support many agencies including CAFOD, the Greystones Homeless Project and Mission Together.

The quality of Collective Worship is outstanding. In the assembly observed by the Inspector, the children were attentive, reverent and respectful. Their responses were thoughtful and relevant. The children plan and deliver acts of worship regularly with confidence, following the school's focus or in response to topical or personal events. All classrooms have prayer areas and the children are enthusiastic participants in prayerful acts of worship and liturgical celebrations.

In summary it is apparent that Religious Education underpins all that St Peter's aspires to achieve. The quality of the relationships is a major strength of the school. As the Parish Priest stated, "The school and parish go hand in hand" to support a community which puts Jesus Christ at the heart of all that it does.

Areas of outstanding practice

Outcomes for pupils

From their earliest years, all children have daily opportunity to engage in a variety of collective acts of worship including whole school Collective Worship, class prayer and individual reflections at playtime, class assemblies, singing and Mass. They regularly prepare and lead worship with skill and confidence. They take on responsibilities enthusiastically.

Leaders and Managers

Leaders, governors and managers have a secure understanding of the school's many strengths and areas for development, and strive to inspire and motivate all to ensure that children have access to the best possible opportunities. They are deeply committed to the Church's mission in education.

Provision

Children enjoy their Religious Education lessons and are inspired by talented, dedicated, knowledgeable staff. The children are secure in their faith and in their understanding of Gospel values. They are sensitive to the needs of others.